

The Bethel Courier.

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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Arvilla and Collins Morgan ca. 1930. Courtesy of David Salway

THE LAST OF THE TWENTIETH MAINE: COLLINS F. MORGAN

by Linda Saunders

The Isaac Small Farm in Newry, Maine was perhaps the first home of Collins Morgan. His father, John Morgan, and other family members farmed this humble piece of land. This is the picture I develop in my mind, as it has been impossible for me to verify many of the facts of the Morgan family. In searching the vital statistics of both the Towns of Newry and Hanover, I have not been able to confirm the birthplace of Collins F. Morgan. The Civil War records at the Maine State Archives indicate his birthplace as Newry, and the Grave Registration indicated his birthplace as Hanover. The obituary in the local newspaper also listed his birth as Hanover. The *History of Hanover, Maine: 1774-1980*, mentions a John Morgan living on the Isaac Small farm, which was located in a remote area in the Town of Newry, but was accessible only via a road or trail leading from Hanover. The farm is described as being only one-fifth of a mile over the Newry Town line. This would explain the reason for the discrepancy of place of birth. The first mention of any Morgans in Newry was in 1846, when John Morgan (his father) appeared on a voter list in the town records. Collins was born in the late spring, 3 June 1841 or 1842, the son of John and Fannie Bean Morgan. Although the Civil War records indicated his birth in 1842, the pension records include a sworn affidavit which states his birth date recorded in the family Bible as 3 June 1841. In his youth, Collins followed his father's footsteps, learn-

ing the ways of farming in the rocky foothills of the White Mountains.

Collins may have attended different schools, as it was common at that time to balance school attendance by changing the boundary lines of the districts, but he most likely went to the Pond School at School House Cove, just down the trail from the farm. The school was in Hanover, not Newry where the farm was located. There was a petition by several residents of the Isaac Small farm and neighborhood to have a road built which would connect this part of Newry to Hanover. The petition was denied.

As the national political scene became more volatile, the call went out for young men to enlist. Maine more than fulfilled her quotas. Collins Morgan answered the call and enlisted as a private on 19 July 1862. He joined the others of the Twentieth Regiment, Company C which mustered in on 29 August of that same year in Portland, Maine. It was the last of the regiments formed to fill the call for three year enlistments from Maine. The Twentieth Regiment consisted of men from all over the State as some were assigned to the regiment when others were filled; however, Company C was primarily made up of men from the farmlands of central and western Maine.

The records at the State Archives show he enlisted at the age of 21, which would be correct if one assumed the year of birth was 1841, not 1842 as shown in most of the records. He was five feet, nine inches tall, had blue eyes, and light hair and complexion. Collins was unmarried at the time of his enlistment. He stated his occupation as a farmer.

The Regiment left Portland, headed to Alexandria, Virginia, on 3 September under the command of Captain Adelbert Ames. In Virginia, the Regiment attached to the First Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps until October of 1862. It was then assigned to the Third Brigade, First Division, of the Fifth Army Corps. After brief training in Virginia (just outside of Washington, D.C.), Collins Morgan marched with the Twentieth for several days, coming upon fresh battlefield after battlefield. They were in line but not ordered forward at Antietam. The first time Morgan was directly in the firing line was at Fredericksburg, Virginia, in December of 1862. For their brave and quick action there, the Regiment received the highest commendation from the commanders. As the war continued, Morgan was to see many more battles.

Shortly after the Battle of Chancellorsville, he had fallen ill, as many did during the war. He was hospitalized in the field near Stoneman's Switch, Virginia on 8 June 1863 for diarrhea, then admitted to Lincoln General Hospital on 15 June with acute diarrhea. On 22 June, he was transferred

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and admitted to McClellan Hospital in Philadelphia. More fortunate than many, he returned to duty on 20 August, 1863; therefore, he was not at the Battle of Gettysburg. Records indicate he was present for roll call from September through December of 1863, and therefore, was involved in the Bristoe Campaign, the advance at Rappahannock and the Mine Run campaign.

In January and February of 1864, he was again hospitalized; this time in a small pox hospital. He was back on the roll call in March and remained so through December of 1864; thereby, he would have participated in the Battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, the Appomattox Campaign, and several others.

Morgan was on furlough for the months of January and February of 1865, but remained present for all roll calls until mustered out on 4 June 1865. He certainly must have been present on 12 April, for the formal Surrendering of Arms over which Maine's greatest Civil War hero, Joshua Chamberlain, presided. The men of the Twentieth Maine, however, were probably too tired, too cold, and too hungry to have appreciated what a great honor it was to have been chosen to receive the Confederate surrender. Morgan's date of discharge was 16 July 1865.

He returned to Newry for a short while; then moved to Gorham, New Hampshire, where he married Arvilla J. Wells, a native of Gorham, on 9 September 1866. Within two years they moved to Milan, New Hampshire, where he farmed along the banks of the Androscoggin River. He supplemented the family income as a stage driver. The family remained in Milan until 1890. There, he and Arvilla raised their seven children, the youngest, Gerry, was born in 1882. The health problems encountered by Collins in the Civil War continued to plague him, and in August of 1879 he applied for invalid pension on the basis of being troubled by chronic diarrhea.

In 1890, he moved his family to Bethel, Maine, where he found employment in a furniture factory, the Bethel Manufacturing Company.

He was an active member of the Brown Post of the GAR. His youngest son often told his children how proudly his father, Collins Morgan, would march with the other members of the post in local parades. Gerry also recalled how splendid the men looked, all dressed in what was left of their Union uniforms.

Arvilla Morgan, Collin's wife, was a very active person. She was a member of the Woman's Relief Corps, and served as Senior Vice President in 1905 and Chaplain in 1917. She was also a member of the Bethel Grange, Pythian Sisters, Methodist Ladies Aid Society, and a very early member of the local history club. She died 7 January 1926.

Collins continued to live at his home on Clark Street in Bethel, enjoying the company of family and friends. Farming was still in his blood, as he was especially fond of working his garden and was very successful at it. Old age seemed to get the better of Collins in his later years. Two months after his wife's death, his daughter filed an Affidavit of Attendant. She indicated that her father's declining health (dizzy spells, and at times his immobility) required her constant care.

Collins F. Morgan died on 16 March 1939 at the age of ninety-seven. He was buried three days later in Woodland Cemetery, Bethel.

Members of his family remember him as a strict but honest man, very religious in his beliefs. They remember he was cited for bravery in the Civil War. The Town of Bethel Annual Report for 1939 records in the vital statistics that he was Bethel's last Civil War Veteran. An article in the November 1981 issue of *Bittersweet Magazine* claims Collins F. Morgan was the last member of the Twentieth Maine Regiment.

28th ANNUAL MEETING

A delicious pot luck supper preceded the 28th annual meeting of the Society held on September 2 at the Dr. Moses Mason House. The meeting was called to order by the retiring president Jane W. Hosterman, who thanked the Special Projects Committee for overseeing the supper and Barbara H. Brown for the special flower arrangements. She asked for a moment of silence in memory of those members who had died since the last annual meeting: Greta Gould Clifford, Richard N. Bryant, Arthur Cummings, Elsie Davis, Robert D. Hastings, Dorothy Hanscom Jones, Hazel H. Newell, and Lucia V. Wilson.

President Hosterman cited some of the highlights of the past year: successful annual events, the addition of over 100 new members, the donation of a wide variety of items to the Society's collections from more than sixty donors, the publication of auto and walking tour brochures, successful Mason and Kilgore family reunions held at the Dr. Moses Mason House, the hosting of the Maine Society, Sons of the American Revolution, the award of a \$15,000 challenge grant from the Bingham Betterment Fund to support the forthcoming Richardson Lakes history expected to be published in 1994, the receipt of a grant from the Maine Arts Commission to support the appearance of the Portland Brass Quintet at a Fourth of July Community Picnic on the grounds of the Dr. Moses Mason House, the holding of the second annual Hall Memorial Lecture featuring Dr. David C. Smith of the University of Maine speaking on the "Main Themes of Maine History," the sponsorship of the silent film, "Timothy's Quest" through a grant from the Maine Arts Commission, and the hundreds of hours donated by scores of members and friends for various projects and activities throughout the year.

Marvin Ouwinga, chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the proposed slate of officers and trustees: Charles Raymond, president; Walter Hatch, vice-president; Shireen Vincent, secretary and clerk of the trustees; Rebecca P. Kendall, treasurer; Jane Hosterman and John B. Head, trustees for three years. Retiring trustees Marvin Ouwinga and John Bayerlein were praised for their many years of devoted service.

Margaret Joy Tibbetts, chairman of the Society Board of Trustees, presented the 7th annual Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award, which is given each annual meeting for outstanding volunteer service, to Rosalind Rowe Chapman, a charter member of the Society whose forebears go back to Bethel's earliest days.

Mrs. Chapman was honored for her longtime service as a guide in the museum since it opened in 1974, as an active member of the Museum Committee since 1974, and as head of the Publications Committee. Always interested in historical research, she worked for years with the late Eva Bean on Bethel's past; she presented programs on the history of Main, Park and Church streets at Society meetings, which were subsequently published in the *COURIER*. Long a champion of the annual "So You Think You Know

Bethel" contest, she also served as a trustee from 1972-1975. A frequent contributor to the Society's annual fund raising campaigns, she also has donated a number of photographs and artifacts to the collection during her many years of membership.



Rosalind Rowe Chapman receives the 1993 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award Revere Bowl from Margaret Joy Tibbetts, chairman of the Society's Board of Trustees at the 28th Annual Meeting. Mrs. Chapman's name was also engraved on the special plaque on display outside the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House.

SOCIETY DUES INCREASE

During this autumn, the Society's Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees considered increases in the dues structure. The last major revision was in 1987, only the second since the early 1970s. Increases in postage and printing plus changes in other operating costs dictated the higher rates. The life membership rates were first set in the mid-1970s and have continued unchanged until this year. The Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees recommended changes in the rates. These were officially approved at the December monthly meeting by the general membership. The new rates appear on the membership application on the next to the last page of this issue. Patron, benefactor and corporate levels were not changed.

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY (continued from the last issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

It was during the year 1935 that the Social Security Act by the Federal Government went into effect and it took quite awhile to get the routine of that established in our crew. The payroll tax for Unemployment Compensation Insurance was set up about the same time also.

A few years later employers were stuck with the job of collecting Income Tax for the Government from all employees in the form of payroll withholding tax.

During the summer of 1937 we leased a mill site and sticking yard from the Aziscoos Land Company on the shore of Umbagog Lake in Cambridge, NH Township where the highway comes nearest the lake and built a sawmill. The machinery for this came mostly from an old sawmill near Plymouth, NH; the town was Campton, NH, which I bought from a man by the name of John Silsby. We bought a used Diesel Na8800 Catapillar Power unit for it in

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It was an honor this fall to be chosen president of the Society. This is a very exciting time for us. Steady and continuing interest in the Society has resulted in marked increases in membership and acquisitions. Due to this growth, the Society faces some interesting challenges.

Three important issues need to be addressed: first, more appropriate storage space for numerous and valuable documents and artifacts entrusted to the Society must be found; second, exhibit space is necessary to present educational displays for the public; third, an expanded research facility is needed to meet the needs of an ever-increasing flow of researchers interested in the area's past.

I have been extremely pleased with the recent trend of young people taking an interest in the activities of the historical society. I hope to encourage this interest and feel we can benefit greatly from their participation. The filming of the monthly meetings has been undertaken by some of these new members and is just one example of how the energy and enthusiasm of our town's youth can be helpful to all of us.

The Bethel Historical Society is blessed with many talented and committed volunteers both young and old. We are truly fortunate to have such an active and distinguished organization in our community. It is vital that we all continue to give our talents and time to preserve the unique heritage that we all value so much.

Charles Raymond

Concord, NH. Paid \$2250 for the power unit, and bought the sawmill rig for about \$75 as it was a steam shotgun feed outfit and we had to put mechanical feed works on it.

We got this outfit running about the middle of August and sawed out the logs we cut the previous winter by early November. I hired the Brown Company driving crew to tow the logs down the river for me.

I bought pine stumpage from the Brown Company and Aziscoos Land Company as joint owners on the west side of Rapid River in the town of Upton in the area where they had cut the pulpwood. We gave \$4 per thousand for this. We built a logging camp at the head of the dead water on Rapid River on the opposite bank from the place called Cedar Stump.

We built a camp and cookroom large enough to take care of twenty men, and we used the hovel of an old set of camps in the same opening for the horses. We got this built and most of our supplies in before the lake froze up, about December 1. We cut about 800 thousand board feet of logs during that winter of 1937 and 1938 and landed it in the dead water of Rapid River and finished the operation about February 15 so that I brought the crew out to Bethel to do some cutting on our land at home.

I stayed with the logging crew on Rapid River during the week and came out to Bethel each weekend. Since I was away, I had Guy Rice move into our house at Bethel with his first wife, Mildred, to do the chores and look after things, and Marie and Kathryn stayed up at the hotel in

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SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	\$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)	\$2 ea.
Moses Mason House	Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House	Bethel Covered Bridge
Booklets	
"Bethel's Broad Street"	75¢
"The Family Farm"	75¢
"Made in Bethel"	75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House"	\$1
"Molly Ockett"	\$2
Maps and Atlases	
1880 Map of Bethel Hill	\$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel)	\$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	\$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	\$7.50
Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four)	\$7.50
Books	
Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY	\$5
Heywood, HISTORY OF UPTON, MAINE	\$10
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD	\$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES	\$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER	\$15.95
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850	\$9.95
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK	\$5
W.B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE	\$19.95
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE & PERCEPTIONS	\$9.95
Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND	\$29.95
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS	\$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY	\$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC	\$29.95
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND	Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY	\$39.95
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD	\$48
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER	\$5
A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS PORTRAITS	\$25
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES	\$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD	\$50
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	\$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890	\$45
F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$20
N.T. True, HISTORY OF BETHEL	\$21
T-Shirts	
Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6
Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,	
Moses Mason House	10¢ ea.

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(L.E. Davis Memoirs, continued from page 3)

Bethel Village that is now called "Gateway Hotel"; it was then "Maple Inn." [Editor's Note: Today Sudbury Inn]

Up to about the year 1934 or 1935 I did not have any regular bookkeeper as I did most of my own bookkeeping evenings and Marie helped with some tallies and other details. I find it is handy to use your wife as bookkeeper as you can get by some of the time without paying her.

However, I believe that it was during the summer of 1934 that I hired Wilbur Myers to look after my bookkeeping during his summer vacation from teaching Commercial Course at Gould's and had him set up a better system than I was using. He worked there also during the summer of 1935 and since the Social Security Law came into effect during that year, he got me set up for that. That law made it practically necessary that we have a full time bookkeeper.

My brother Bob did it for a while but steady indoor work didn't agree with him so he gave it up, and I hired Rita Hutchins. I am getting ahead of my story. Chester Wheeler was the one who followed Wilbur Myers I believe, and I think that Bob and Rita were later, and it isn't too important. The important thing was that Rita finished her bookkeeping job for me and became my daughter-in-law in June 1938; she and Richard were married on June 4th.

On September 20th and 21st there occurred one of those freak combinations of circumstances in weather behavior that happen only about once in a hundred years or so. This was a hurricane that came up the eastern coast and inland through New England into Canada. The wind that came with it blew down millions of trees in sections of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts with some damage in Canada.

Also, of course, telephone and electric light lines suffered heavy damage. In this hurricane disaster of course many people lost valuable shade trees but the greatest financial loss was in the great quantity of softwood timber which was blown down.

We were able to salvage about all the blow down pine on our various lots, but the big volume of forced cutting all over New England forced down the price of sawed lumber so that the cost of salvaging in many cases very nearly equalled the log price. Many people sold blow down pine stumpage for \$1 and \$2 per thousand. I bought pine logs delivered in my mill yard for \$8 per thousand and the price of good log run pine boards loaded on the cars at Bethel was \$16 per thousand after being seasoned with not too active demand even at that price.

After things got settled a little around home, Richard and I took a trip up to the Rapid River area and the situation there was worse than around Bethel. We estimated that at least 75% of the pine in that section was blown down.

To get a better look at it, we hired Carmen Onofrio at the Berlin, NH airport to take us with his airplane over the whole area in October. We spent about an hour in the air over the area and it was a nice trip. From this survey we were able to see where the heaviest blow down sections were. Since we already had a sawmill built on the lake and a logging camp set up at the head of dead water on Rapid River, we decided to buy what stumpage we could handle.

After some negotiations with the Brown Company and the Aziscoos Land Company, I got a stumpage permit to cut blow down trees only, and the stumpage price I paid was \$1.50 per thousand board feet. We had a good working crew and cut and landed in the river about 1250 thousand feet of pine by the early part of March when the snow got too deep to do much with down trees, so we broke camp. About 800M of this timber we twitched with horses directly to the river and dumped it in, and used drag sleds for balance. By the early part of January we had the river pretty full of logs, so we decided to drive it down to the mouth at the lake and put it in a holding boom. It was cold, icy work and I well remember the last day on January 6, 1939. I had "Dutch" and Richard helping me with a boat and kicker swing the boom into place.

(to be continued in the next issue)

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the OXFORD COUNTY CITIZEN, May 7, 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman

When they reached Baltimore, some of them had been posted on the heights, over the city by Gen. Benj. Butler in command of Massachusetts troops, and the rebellious people of Baltimore considered it prudent to confine their hospitality to looks and words. The Fifth Maine marched through the city with muskets loaded, and every precaution was taken to guard against attack. Thousands of people lined the sidewalks as the command moved through the streets. Having arrived in Washington, the Regt. went into camp on Meridien Hill where it remained about two weeks.

One morning before daylight during this time an old negro slave with his wife and three children came within hailing distance of the picket line in command of Capt. Edwards the office of the guard, and piteously entreated to be allowed to go North. Capt. Edwards replied that orders had been given that no colored person should be permitted within the Union lines, but must be sent back to his master. On hearing this, the old woman broke out crying, the half naked children clung to her ragged skirts and howled while the old man exhibited the marks of the lash over his face and shoulders from the effects of which blood was still to be seen, at the time begging not to be sent back as he feared further chastisement. This was too much for the tender hearted captain. "I can give up my commission," he said, "but I will never send you back." "De good Lord bess you, mas'r," ejaculated the old negro, as they went on their way rejoicing that the day of jubilee had come. These were undoubtedly the first fugitives who went through this part of our lines if not the Union lines. Soon afterward the practice of sending back fugitive slaves was generally abandoned. Gen. Butler having declared them "contrabands," and the enlightened sentiment of the North condemning such practice.

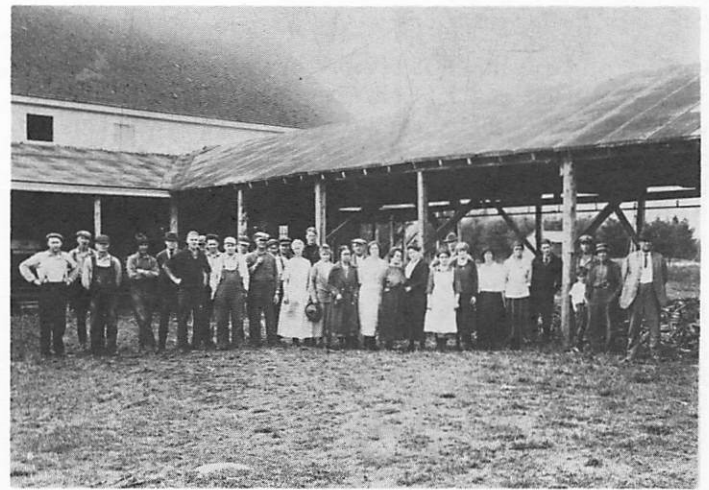
(to be continued in the next issue)

IN MEMORIAM

Died, October 5, 1993, Herbert P. Shirrefs, sustaining member since 1987.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Beryl L. Haskell, New Gloucester
William H. Kieffer III, Bethel



Workers at the Bethel Corn Shop posed for the photographer at the turn of the century.

BETHEL'S BRIDGE STREET/ CROSS STREET/ RIVERSIDE LANE: A HISTORY

by Pauline P. Davis

(continued from the last issue)

TOWN OF BETHEL HIGHWAY GARAGE - William Winslow obtained this location from Eli Barker in October 1905. This site and many more acres of land surrounding Cross Street were deeded to Mr. Winslow's sister, Achsah, who lived in Portland, on March 13, 1911. Achsah Winslow sold to Asa Sessions on November 22, 1918, and Mr. Sessions erected a barn where he kept horses and stored hay. He sold the premises to the Town of Bethel on August 19, 1947, and the current Town Garage was constructed by Frank Gibson, Sr., in 1948. The salt shed was built in the early 1950s.

Mention should be made that the original Gould Academy Athletic Field was at one time located in the area of the Town Garage property. Eli Barker, Edwin Rowe and Daniel Smith each sold a parcel of land to the Trustees of Gould Academy on August 12, 1908. A July 29, 1909 *Oxford County Citizen* article states that the land for an athletic field was purchased, partially fenced, and a considerable amount of money spent in clearing by the young men of the school, etc. The town was deeded the land soon after the new Alumni Field at Gould Academy was completed in the late 1930s. Townspeople used this area for donkey ball games, sundry sports events, and baseball games over the summers until the Town Garage was erected.

BETHEL RESCUE BARN - The ambulance barn was built and in service in October 1985. Builders were: Peter Kuzyk, Edward Kennett and Gregory Cummings.

A deed dated September 16, 1921, showed that Fred Edwards sold the land with buildings thereon to Howard Thurston, who then deeded it to Grace W. Estes in September 1921. (Mrs. Estes was Stanley Gallant's, Maragret Belanger's, Luella Schraffer's, and Marie Swan's grandmother.) Theodore ("Ted") Gallant and family lived there until Mrs. Estes' death on July 31, 1932. Fred I. Clark then bought the title to the property and rented it to George and Dorothy Tibbetts until 1939 when it was sold to George Carr of Colebrook, New Hampshire. Mr. Carr sold the land and buildings to John and Gwendolyn

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(Streets, continued from page 5)

Currier on November 15, 1940. They added a bathroom and remodeled the kitchen. Daughter Grace was born while they lived there. They sold the property to Guy E. Swan, Jr., on November 13, 1956. The Swans lived in the house until it was condemned by the town in 1983 and finally demolished and burned by the Bethel Fire Department in 1985.

This entire area - Bridge Street, Cross Street, Riverside Lane - has seen many changes; families have come and gone, buildings have been built and razed, businesses have flourished and failed. Through all this, it remains an important section of the Town of Bethel.

BOOK NOTES

Northwoods Heritage: Authentic Short Accounts of the Northland in Another Era, by Richard E. Pinette. Errol, New Hampshire: By the Author, 1992. 309 pps., illus., index, hardcover. \$19.95 & \$1.50 p/h to the author at Akers Pond, Errol, NH 03579.

The author of the "Errol Echoes" column in *The Berlin Reporter*, Richard Pinette has previously published a collection of short stories and anecdotes entitled *Northwoods Echoes* (1986), based on his newspaper writing. In this second volume of tales of the White Mountain region, Pinette groups his material into chapters carrying such names as "Intrigue" (which recalls tales of tragic lives, curses, legends, notorious murders, etc.), "Pioneers With Wings" (telling of the area's early aviators, including Carmen Onofrio, the only man ever to land a conventional plane atop Mount Washington), and "Portraits of Purpose" (profiling noted "North Country" people, including William Wentworth Brown, Neil Tillotson, Alf Halvorson, and Keen Frick). The author is particularly adept when telling of former logging operations in the area, and his choice of illustrations adds much to this volume.

The Waterford Water Cure: A Numismatic Inquiry, by Q. David Bowers. Wolfeboro, New Hampshire: Bowers and Merena Publications, 1992. 221 pps., illus., index, hardcover. \$49.95 & \$3.00 p/h to the publisher at Box 1224, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

For those interested in the Oxford County town of Waterford or 19th century water cure establishments, Q. David Bowers' book, *The Waterford Water Cure*, will be a goldmine of information. Well illustrated with views in and around the present Lake House at Waterford Flat village, once "Dr. Shattuck's Water Cure," this work presents fascinating details about the once popular health spa and hospital that, like others, treated sufferers with various water remedies. As part of his advertising campaign, Dr. William Shattuck had his establishment's name counter-

EDITOR'S CORNER

Since its founding in 1976, the COURIER has been collected by a large number of members. Readers tell me that they periodically enjoy re-reading back issues. Several newer members are eagerly seeking to build a collection of the entire run (now totalling 60 issues). Anyone having issues they wish to discard, please send them to the Society as we will see that they get into the hands of those anxious to complete their collection. SRH

struck on coins as a way of spreading news of his business. The author, a rare coin dealer and historian, combines data on these special advertising coins with a unique history of this colorful local endeavor.



Herb and Libby Shirrefs

MEMBER PROFILE

Herbert P. Shirrefs

Born October 28, 1910 in Elizabeth, NJ, the son of Russell A. and Meta Pluemer Shirrefs, Society member Herbert P. Shirrefs was educated in Elizabeth (NJ) public schools. In 1931, he earned a degree in business administration from the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania. During his professional life, he worked in the personnel department of Remington Arms Corporation and later for the Dupont Corporation where he assisted in the establishment and development of new Dupont facilities throughout the United States. He married his wife Elizabeth at Summit, NJ in 1939; they are the parents of three children and two grandchildren. Prior to his retirement in 1974, he worked at Dupont corporate headquarters in Wilmington, DE, where he was responsible for compilation and presentation of requests for corporate philanthropy.

In his retirement years, he completed a book, *THE RICHARDSON LAKES: JEWELS IN THE RANGELEY CHAIN*, which is expected to be published by the Bethel Historical Society in 1994. The Shirrefs had a summer cottage in this region for years.

Mr. Shirrefs was an active member of the First Congregational Church of Camden, an active member of the Rockland Rotary Club, and a 32nd degree Mason.

A member of the Bethel Historical Society since 1987, he died suddenly on October 5, 1993. At his family's request, memorial donations were made to the Bethel Historical Society and the Society has pledged to use these contributions to publish his book, which will be edited by Society Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett.



SOCIETY RECEIVES CHAIR USED BY
WILLIAM BINGHAM II

A chair used by William Bingham II, Bethel's greatest benefactor, was presented this fall to the Society by his grand niece, Aurel Blossom of New York City. Posing with the chair are Gould Academy Headmaster and Society member William P. Clough III and Society Director Stanley R. Howe.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1993-1994

- BUILDING:** Sumner Burgess, Chair, George Noll, Julia Brown, Rodney Howe, Fred McMillin, Don Vautour, Richard Hoeh
- GARDEN & GROUNDS:** Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Chair, Sudie Vachon, Gertrude Hutchins, Jane Vogt, Joy Yarnell, Geraldine Howe, Tineke Ouwinga, Lynda Chandler, Arlene Lowell, Mina McMillin, James Lowe
- EDUCATION:** Alvin Barth, Chair, Elizabeth Smith, Judy Haskell, Virginia Kelly, Catherine Newell, Marvin Ouwinga
- PROGRAM:** John Bayerlein, Chair, Helen Morton, Geraldine Howe, Karen Brown-Mohr, Ernest Perkins, Norman Clanton, Earlon Paine, Richard Hosterman, Wendy Penley
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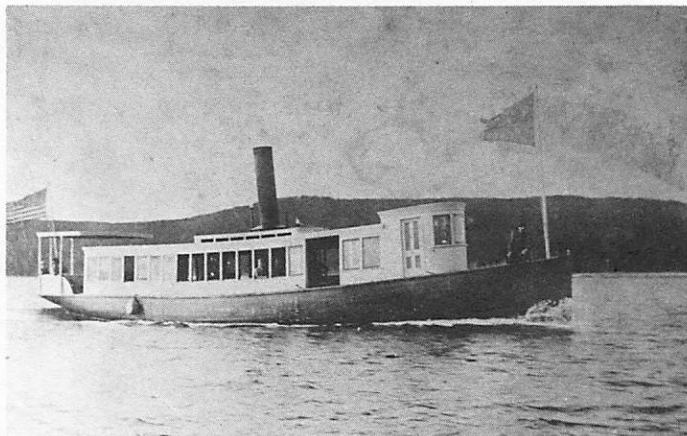


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This photo of a passenger steamboat is one of several hundred appearing in the forthcoming book, *The Richardson Lakes: Jewels in the Rangeley Chain* (see flyer inside).

The news of McKinley's election was made known, Wednesday morning, by the chair factory whistle blowing, after the regular blast, six extra ones.

Oxford Advertiser, 6 November 189

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